Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/IRN:JRODES APPROVED BY: NEA/IRN:CWNAAS

NEA:MR. WALKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 269226

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 269226 SENT ACTION USUN DECEMBER 7TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 269226

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PORG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON DECLARATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

1. FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED URGENTLY TO HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI, C/O PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, 622 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK. BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESS: I AGREE WITH THE THOUGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS CONTAINED IN YOUR PROPOSED DECLARATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS FORWARDED TO ME BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IMPERIAL IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE FOR SOME TIME. I UNDERSCORED THIS COMMITMENT IN A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATION OF AUGUST 22, 1974, CALLING UPON ALL AMERICANS

TO OBSERVE AUGUST 26, 1974 AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY. THE PROCLAMATION RECALLED MY WORDS TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1970 WHICH STRESSED THAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION WAS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAD COME.

I BELIEVE THAT IN THE WIDELY PROCLAIMED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR OF 1975, AMERICANS MUST DEAL WITH ANY INEQUITIES THAT ARE STILL BARRIERS TO THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OUR NATION'S LIFE.

I HAVE URGED AMERICANS TO RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL WELL-BEING. AS A REPUBLIC DEDICATED TO LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

WITH MY VERY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: PORG To: TEHRAN

Type: TE

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